

REMARKS

Amendment to Claims

Claims 23, 25 and 29-31 have been amended to correct informalities and/or antecedent basis.

Claims 35-42 are new.

Support for new Claims 35 and 36 is found, for example, at page 30, line 27 through page 31, line 10.

Support for new Claim 37 is found, for example, at page 30, lines 4-9.

Support for new Claim 38 is found, for example, at page 28, lines 12-16 and page 29, line 27 through page 30, line 3.

Support for new Claim 39 is found, for example, at page 28, lines 12-16.

Support for new Claim 40 is found, for example, at page 29, lines 22-26.

Support for new Claim 41 is found, for example, at page 26, lines 6-9.

Support for new Claim 42 is found, for example, at page 26, lines 15-17.

The new claims are supported by the subject application as originally filed. Therefore, this Amendment adds no new matter.

Reply to Restriction Requirement

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated January 25, 2006, the claims of Group IV (Claims 23-34), defined by the Examiner as being drawn to a method of treating a condition in a patient characterized by activation of an inflammatory cytokine cascade comprising administering a composition comprising an antibody that binds to an HMGB polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof and an agent, are elected for prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected inventions. Applicant does not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

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Responsive to the requirement for species elections for searching purposes, Applicant hereby elects: (A) an antibody that binds to SEQ ID NO:1; and (B) rheumatoid arthritis as the condition. Claims readable on the elected species are Claims 23-29 and 32-34 and 36-42.

Respectfully submitted,

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